

In my native State of Nevada, many people own firearms and the vast majority of them use their guns responsibly and safely. It is their right to do so, guaranteed in the United States Constitution. It is not some privilege granted at the whim of Congress or any other part of government. So I will work on a bipartisan basis to protect and safeguard that right.

I will work to pass this bill, and I think we have the votes to pass it.

Toward the end of last year, we tried to consider this bill in the United States Senate. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time left in the first session of this Congress to consider this bill in a fair manner.

Now the time has come to pass this bill.

We will now debate and vote on the amendments that Senators want to offer to this bill, and then we will pass it. And when we do, we will be standing up for the Constitution and the rights of every American citizen.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant Journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECOND NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROCEDURAL RULEMAKING

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached statement from the Office of Compliance be entered into the RECORD today pursuant to section 303(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)).

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995: Second Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules.

Introductory statement:

On September 4, 2003, a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance was published in the Congressional Record at S11110, and H7944. As specified by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act") at Section 303(b) (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)), a 30 day period for comments from interested parties ensued. In response, the Office received a number of comments regarding the proposed amendments.

At the request of a commenter, for good reason shown, the Board of Directors extended the 30 day comment period until October 20, 2003. The extension of the comment period was published in the Congressional Record on October 2, 2003 at H9209 and S12361.

On October 15, 2003, an announcement that the Board of Directors intended to hold a

hearing on December 2, 2003 regarding the proposed procedural rule amendments was published in the Congressional Record at H9475 and S12599. On November 21, 2003, a Notice of the cancellation of the December 2, 2003 hearing was published in the Congressional Record at S15394 and H12304.

The Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance has determined to issue this Second Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Procedural Rules, which includes changes to the initial proposed amendments, together with a brief discussion of each proposed amendment. As set forth in greater detail herein below, interested parties are being afforded another opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments.

The complete existing Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance may be found on the Office's web site: www.compliance.gov.

How to submit comments:

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Office of Compliance set forth in this NOTICE are invited for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of the appearance of this NOTICE in the Congressional Record. In addition to being posted on the Office of Compliance's section 508 compliant web site (www.compliance.gov), this NOTICE is also available in the following alternative formats: Large Print, Braille. Requests for this NOTICE in an alternative format should be made to: Bill Thompson, Executive Director, or Alma Candelaria, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Compliance, at 202-724-9250 (voice) or 202-426-1912 (TDD).

Submission of comments must be made in writing to the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, 110 Second Street, S.E., Room LA-200, Washington, D.C. 20540-1999. It is requested, but not required, that an electronic version of any comments be provided on an accompanying computer disk. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to the Executive Director at 202-426-1913 (a non-toll-free number.) Those wishing to receive confirmation of the receipt of their comments are requested to provide a self-addressed, stamped post card with their submission.

Copies of submitted comments will be available for review on the Office's web site at www.compliance.gov, and at the Office of Compliance, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999, on Monday through Friday (non-Federal holidays) between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Supplementary Information: The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. The CAA applies the rights and protections of 11 federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch of Government. Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1381) establishes the Office of Compliance as an independent office within that Branch. Section 303 (2 U.S.C. 1383) directs that the Executive Director, as the Chief Operating Officer of the agency, adopt rules of procedure governing the Office of Compliance, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance. The rules of procedure generally establish the process by which alleged violations of the laws made applicable to the Legislative Branch under the CAA will be considered and resolved. The rules include procedures for counseling, mediation, and election between filing an administrative complaint with the Office of Compliance or filing a civil action in U.S. District Court. The rules also include the procedures for processing Occupational Safety and Health investigations and enforcement, as well as the process for the conduct of administrative hearings held as the result of the filing of an administrative com-

plaint under all of the statutes applied by the Act, and for appeals of a decision by a hearing officer to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, and for the filing of an appeal of a decision by the Board of Directors to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The rules also contain other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operation of the Office of Compliance.

These proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure are the result of the experience of the Office in processing disputes under the CAA during the period since the original adoption of these rules in 1995.

How to read the proposed amendments:

The text of the proposed amendments shows [deletions within brackets], and *added text in italic*. Textual additions which have been made for the first time in this second notice of the proposed amendments **are shown as italicized bold**. Textual deletions which have been made for the first time in this second notice of the proposed amendments [[are bracketed with double brackets.]] Only subsections of the rules which include proposed amendments are reproduced in this notice. The insertion of a series of small dots (. . . .) indicates additional, unamended text within a section has not been reproduced in this document. The insertion of a series of stars (* * * *) indicates that the unamended text of entire sections of the Rules have not been reproduced in this document. For the text of other portions of the Rules which are not proposed to be amended, please access the Office of Compliance web site at www.compliance.gov.

PROPOSED PROCEDURAL RULE AMENDMENTS

PART I—OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Office of Compliance Rules of Procedure

As Amended—February 12, 1998 (Subpart A, section 1.02, "Definitions"), and as proposed to be amended in 2004.

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